News-item captioned 'Spy satellites on the prowl'

2337. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report published in the 'Statesman' of 7th June, 1995 under the caption, "Spy satellites on the prowl";

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regasd; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take for the safety and security of our nuclear installations and military establishments from spy satellites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (c) The entire matter of satellite based surveillance is sensitive and relates to vital operational aspects of War. Disclosing detals with regard to the capabilities in this field will not be in the interest of National Secruity.

Alarming Increase in Population

2338. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population of India is growing at an alarming rate of 2.1 per cent a year;

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to check this growth in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(c) what is the percentage of the people to adopt family planning in the country;

(d) whater Government proposes to set up women cell at the Block level to encourage family planning amongst the women in the country; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) According to the Sample Registration System figures of 1993, the growth rate was 1.94.

(b) An Action Plan formulated in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories is under implementation. Its features include improving the quality and outreach of services, promotion of spacing methods, among younger age couples, special focus on 90 lagging districts involving voluntary and non-governmental organisations to promote community participation and strengthening of interventions to promote maternal and child health care.

(c) The contraceptive prevalance rate is 45.8% amongst the eligible couples as on 31.3.1995.

(d) and (e) Mahila Swasthya Sangh (MSS) Scheme was launched in 1990-91 for involving women, at the village level to provide support to achieve the goals of the programme.

Promotion of footwear industry

2339. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote footwear industry in the country;

(b) if so, the possibility explored by Government in the matter; and

(c) the details of proposal mooted for this prupose for coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) For the integrated development of leather industry, a UNDP-assisted National Leather Development Programme is currently